GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6520
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2005
GLOBAL FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL SECURITY
Patil Shri Balasaheb Vikhe

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether at a recently held International Consultation on Bio-Diversity the experts have expressed their concern at the narrowing base of Global Food and Nutritional Security and stressed the need for better deployment of plant bio-diversity;

(b) if so, whether need for International collaborations in the conservation and equitable use of biological wealth has also been felt by them;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps the Government proposes to take in this direction ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a),(b)&(c): An international consultation on the role of biodiversity in achieving the United Nations Millennium Development Goal of Freedom from Hunger and Poverty was held during 18-19 April, 2005 at Chennai. The experts were concerned at the declining number of plant species in agriculture and stressed on the need for greater attention to the cultivation and use of plant biodiversity including locally important crops and better deployment of plant biodiversity. The experts further expressed that while respecting national sovereignty, there was need for greater collaboration to facilitate international access to and benefit sharing of genetic resources for equitable use of biological wealth.

(d): In order to regulate access to biological resources and ensure benefit sharing between providers of bio-resources and its users on mutually agreed terms, a National Biodiversity Authority has been established at Chennai under the provisions of Biological Diversity Act, 2002.